Ser. No: 10/716,566 August 5, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13 to 15.

Please amend pending claims 1 and 22 as follows:

– 1(currently amended). A heavy-duty clamp for a hose, the clamp including a loop for disposing around the hose and having first and second axially spaced apart looped ends, the clamp comprising:

- a force generator, for drawing together the first and second looped ends, and connected to the first and second looped ends, the force generator including at least one disc spring mounted thereon and made out of ~~steel~~ corrosion resistant material so as to allow substantially high and constant clamping force from the force generator under circumferential expansion and contraction of the hose over temperature operational condition of the hose and the clamp and humidity operational condition over time; and
- a spacer member mounted on the force generator between the disc spring and the first looped end for axially transferring the clamping force from the force generator to the first and second looped ends, the clamping force axially drawing together the first and second looped ends so as to clamp the hose.

2(original). The clamp, according to claim 1, in which the first looped end includes a first outer face and a first inner face, and the second looped end includes a second outer face and a second inner face, the first and second outer faces being angled inwardly towards each other and the first and second inner faces being curved and disposed inwardly towards each other.

3(original). The clamp, according to claim 2, in which the first looped end includes first and second holes located in the respective first outer and inner faces and the second looped end includes third and fourth holes located in the respective second outer and inner faces, the holes being axially aligned with each other.

4(original). The clamp, according to claim 3, in which the force generator includes a bolt having a first bolt end and a second bolt end, the bolt passing through the first, second, third and fourth holes.

5(original). The clamp, according to claim 4, in which the bolt includes a threaded portion and a non-threaded portion, the non-threaded portion extending through and away from the first looped end.

6(original). The clamp, according to claim 5, in which the disc spring and the spacer member are slidably mounted on the non-threaded portion, the disc spring being located near the first bolt end.

7(original). The clamp, according to claim 6, in which the force generator further includes a first capture nut mounted in the first looped end and a second capture nut mounted in the second looped end.

8(original). The clamp, according to claim 7, in which the first capture nut includes a non-threaded axial bore.

9(original). The clamp, according to claim 8, in which the second capture nut includes a threaded axial bore.

10(original). The clamp, according to claim 9, in which the first and second capture nuts each includes a curved end and a stem portion.

11(original). The clamp, according to claim 10, in which the spacer member includes a cylindrical collar with an axial bore sized to accommodate the bolt therein, the cylindrical collar having a force receiver end and a force transfer end.

12(original). The clamp, according to claim 11, in which the stem portion of the first capture nut is disposed towards the first hole of the first looped end and abuts the force transfer end.

13-15(canceled).

16(original). The clamp, according to claim 12, in which the second bolt end includes a stop.

17(original). The clamp, according to claim 16, in which the stop is a lock nut, a Stover nut or a nylon insert nut.

18(original). The clamp, according to claim 17, in which the Stover nut or the nylon insert nut are integral with the stem portion of the second capture nut.

19(original). The clamp, according to claim 2, in which the first hole of the first looped end is larger than the second hole of the first looped end.

20(original). The clamp, according to claim 1, in which the clamp loop, when viewed in cross section, includes a planar portion and two ends that are angled away from the surface of the hose.

21(original). The clamp, according to claim 1, includes a plurality of paired disc springs.

22(currently amended). The clamp, according to claim 1, in which a plate is hingeably connected to the first looped end~~, the plate being~~ for allowing insertion of the clamp around the hose passing through a gap located in between the first and second looped ends and to be positionable in a continuous relationship with the ~~loop when~~ loop once the clamp is disposed around the hose, thereby ~~so as to~~

substantially ~~close off a~~ closing off the gap ~~located in~~ between the first and second looped ends.

23(previously presented). The clamp, according to claim 1, in which the disc spring is made out of stainless steel material.

24(previously presented). The clamp, according to claim 22, in which the plate includes a guide portion for guiding the moveable first and second looped ends when moving towards and away from each other during clamping. –